

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

7 SEPTEMBER 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Communists increase guerrilla activity in northern South Vietnam

Two government posts north of Kontum were captured last week by a Communist force of about 1,000; the Diem government says two North Vietnamese battalions were involved, but we doubt it. Government forces retook both posts on Monday, but were not strong enough to pursue the attackers. The government reported 100 rebel and 19 friendly dead; actual South Vietnamese Army losses were 35 killed, 49 wounded, 25 missing. It appears that Diem's Civil Guard also lost 170 in these engagements.

[REDACTED]

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2. Katangan attitude toward UN stiffening

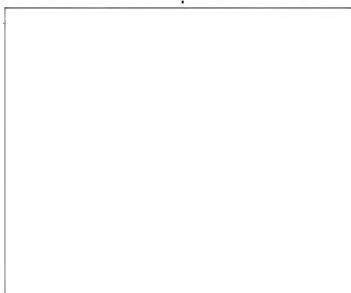
The Katangan government has announced it will "never make one further concession" to the UN. Adoula, on his return from Belgrade, will probably ask for-- and get--UN assistance in occupying northern Katanga, an action which Tshombé may attempt to meet with force. The US Consulate in Elizabethville is worried that further government-inspired mob action may be directed against it.

[REDACTED]

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3. Bizerte remains tense



Hostilities almost broke out again Tuesday when several Tunisians were killed by French gunfire; Tunisian units, however, were ordered to hold their fire. In the last few days, the French have further strengthened their positions in the city.

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NOTES

- A. The East German security apparatus is planning some sort of action beginning 20 September. We are not yet able to tell what it involves. [REDACTED]
- B. The UAR is negotiating to act as middleman in selling Cuban molasses to "America or other countries." [REDACTED]
- C. Afghan officials are attempting to balance Afghanistan's break in relations with Pakistan by calling US attention to Prime Minister Daud's support of the Western position on Berlin in Belgrade. [REDACTED]

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WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS--6 September

No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate direct military action in the immediate future.

Berlin: The Communists continue to allege Allied misuse of the air corridors. There are further indications of efforts to increase the capability of the East Germans to interfere with air access to West Berlin. The possibility remains that the Communists may attempt harassment of Western civil air access to West Berlin.

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